

Bill Barish  
6727 Snowdon Ave.  
El Cerrito CA 94530

Sep 18th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The USTelecom petition is a direct assault on U.S. consumers' ability to get reliable phone and internet service at a reasonable cost. I would be one of the many personally affected by adoption of the petition, for which reason I insist that you **REJECT THE PETITION** in favor of maintaining a wider range of telecommunication choices for communities of all sizes and in all places.

In my case, as is true with most people in my metropolitan area, I have had the experience of being forced to accept service from among only two phone and internet providers, both with very poor records of competitive pricing and customer service and support, until finally getting the opportunity to receive service from an independent provider with a much better record of both. The petition could result in the loss of my provider (Sonic) altogether and the forging of further monopolistic policies and practices among the remaining providers in the area (AT&T and Verizon). It is, therefore, critically important that you not undermine the birth and growth of local, more-competitive companies in the telecommunications arena by accepting the tenets of the petition.

If you were to approve the petition, the results could only be dire: Unlimited increases in phone and internet charges coupled with a matching decrease in service and reliability as the remaining providers cut costs in search of greater profit--all at the expense of customers. Again, it is unacceptable to consider any action other than to **REJECT THE PETITION**.

Bill Barish